SHORTER ARTICLES

THE FRINGED GENTIAN.—*Gentiana crinita* Froel.—Much has been written about this beautiful but elusive American wild flower, and information about its life history and peculiar habits and habitats is being acquired, so that it will be possible to cultivate it and bring it back to the places where it used to be native and abundant. It has been well-established that it is a biennial and there seems to be some ground for the statement that it thrives best where there is lime in the soil, and sufficient moisture so that the seedlings do not become too dry. It has also been definitely shown that early frosts often kill the plants before they can scatter seeds, so that it disappears or becomes scarce for several seasons, but if a few plants remain to form seed, it will reappear in the same locality after a year or two of absence. It ranges from Quebec to Georgia along the Atlantic coastal plain and westward to Minnesota and Iowa in the Mississippi Valley, and grows in wet meadows on the borders of streams and lakes where the soil is moist but not too wet or swampy.

Perhaps the most successful replanting has been done by Dr. George F. Norton of Pleasantville, N. Y. In October, 1906, he collected seeds near Stanwich, Conn. and sowed them at once near his home in Westchester County. Some of the seed he kept over the winter but has reason to believe that the fresh seed germinates more readily. Having established the plant near his home, he has continued to plant it in different places from Bedford Hills to Valhalla and from Danbury, Conn. to the Hudson and distributed seeds to many other places.

Mrs. Caspar T. Sharpless of Camden, N. J. has established it at her summer home near Mt. Pocono, Penn. and grown plants three feet high with over 100 blossoms. Miss E. R. Kennaday of Mendham, N. J. has sown seed in Bergen Co., N. J. and Dutchess Co., N. Y. The former director of the Buffalo Botanic Garden—John F. Cowell—had grown fringed gentian successfully for six years and sent some to the N. Y. Botanical Garden. We have tried growing it in pots and sowing it braodcast in favorable localities. The plants sown in pots quickly become pot-bound, and when transplanted, the roots are injured so that the plants are stunted and rarely grow

more than a rosette of leaves. So it seems definitely proven that the only way to have fringed gentians is to sow them in favorable spots where they will not be trampled, cut off or carried away. And it is particularly to be desired that the earliest blossoms be left to form seed, as the later ones may be nipped by frost and fail to do so.

Elizabeth G. Britton

New York Botanical Garden.

Some Observations on Lonicera japonica Thunb. (Japanese Honeysuckle)

The great variety of color and the fragrance of blossoms are, doubtless, responsible for most people's interest in plants. But in spite of the variety, the color of a given blossom usually remains the same throughout its life and those most highly colored often lack fragrance. So a fragrant blossom which turns from white to pale yellow and then to deeper shades is of special interest.

How long does this color change in *Lonicera japonica* take? Does the time vary and if so, what makes it vary? To try to answer these questions, observations were made on 42 blossoms in 13 groups of 2, 3, or 4 blossoms each. The plant on which they grew was about fifteen feet high, growing against a dead tree. For the lower five feet it spread to a width of about 10 feet. Observations extended over a period of six days and were made at first approximately at 7:45 A.M., 1:45 and 7:45 P.M. There was practically no rainfall during this period and the temperature varied from 67 to 82 degrees Fahrenheit indoors.

No changes occurred from 7:45 P.M. to 7:45 A.M., few changes occurred from 7:45 A.M. to 1:45 P.M., most changes occurred from 1:45 to 7:45 P.M. Blossoms that opened one afternoon turned pale yellow the next. In only one case was there a change from white to yellow in the morning, but once having turned yellow they often turned to darker shades of yellow in the morning.

It was found that the time in which the blossoms change from white to deepest yellow varies, being shorter when the temperature is higher.

No. of blossoms	Time required for change	Highest temperature	Lowest temperature	Average temperature
4	48 hours	82	73	75
8	66 "	82	71	75
2	66 "	76	67	73
28	72 "	76	67	73

All temperature readings were made indoors.

Observations were made at Cold Spring Harbor from July 25 to 30, 1924.

Emma L. Kemp

Lincoln High School,
Jersey City, N. J.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

Meeting of May 28, 1924

On this date a joint all-day meeting of the Club and several other societies and individuals interested in the conservation of our native wild plants was held at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

The following were elected to membership in the Club at this meeting:

Mr. Edward J. Alexander, 664 West 179th Street, N. Y. City.

Mr. John E. F. Hellawell, 362 Dean Street, Brooklyn.

Mr. Roland Jackson Hunter, 636 High St., Newark, N. J.

Mr. William H. Zaun, Jersey City, N. J.

In the morning Miss Ellen Eddy Shaw spoke on the work of her department in the Children's Gardens. After her lecture in the Laboratory Building, the visitors were conducted to the Children's Gardens in the southern part of the Garden, where Miss Shaw explained the methods of instruction.

In the afternoon the report was received of the Committee on Conservation of Native Plants appointed last May at a similar meeting at the Garden. The committee appointed at that time was as follows: Dr. R. C. Benedict, of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Chairman, representing the American Fern Society; Dr. G. Clyde Fisher, of the American Museum of Natural History, from the New York Bird and Tree Club; Dr. Homer D. House, of the New York State Museum, from the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America; and Dr. M. A. Howe, of the New York Botanical Garden, from the Torrey Botanical Club, and also Attorney Augustus O. Bourne, Jr.